**Past President's report for AGM on Monday 2nd August 2121**

On behalf of the Committee and Club I would like to welcome you all to the 52nd AGM of the Karori Bridge Club. Before we begin the meeting could we please stand for a minute in memory of those members, past and present, who have passed away during the year... Michael Godfrey, Raj Vasil, Peter O'Reilly, Ian Frater, Ann Sturman and Jean Verhoeven.

As you are aware there has not been a president this year however the Committee has worked extremely well together and everyone has taken responsibility for ensuring the smooth running of the club. I have been acting as president in most matters but I would like to thank Klaus Dorbecker for taking responsibility for a couple of things the president usually deals with. During the year two Committee members resigned. Sally Weatherley moved up the coast and decided it was too much to commute to work and continue to play bridge at Karori. Also Klaus Cordes (our property manager) who had been spending a lot of time dealing with building and tenant issues needed to resign so we were very fortunate that Peter Wilcox, who held the role before Klaus, agreed to take up this role again but outside the committee.

Our building and the need to attract and keep tenants takes up a lot of Committee time as we are very reliant on the income from this. We need to ensure the tenant's space is suitable when changes occur and of course equipment needs to be replaced in a building of this age. eg our wall oven and the gas furnace have been the expenses last month.

Earlier this year we were approached by a firm on behalf of a client who was wondering if our building was suitable for their needs and if so whether we were interested in selling. They have organised an engineer's report on the building and so far nothing has come of this. The committee is happy to keep an open mind but of course no sale would go ahead without the approval of the membership and new clubrooms being found. It would be nice if we were able to have a dedicated clubroom with parking outside but it's not easy to find.

Covid-19 made a brief appearance in Wellington this year and luckily we did not need to close the club for long, however it is timely to remind everyone to please stay home if you are not well, and practise safe hygiene at all times.

Playing numbers have returned to normal since pre covid during the week but it is disappointing that Saturday bridge this year has not seen the same numbers as before. The Committee will consider the viability of holding bridge on Saturdays once it has finished this year.

The club membership presently stands at 209 which is up from last year. This is mainly due to the hard work by Klaus Dorbecker and the education sub committee who put in much time and effort to organise two sets of lessons, ensure that mentors were there to help during lessons and also for the first few weeks of the learners playing on club nights. Sincere thanks to Graeme Pugh and Sam Ward who prepared and ran the lessons and to Tani Blackburn who helped run the second set of lessons. Special thanks to all those members who so willingly helped by being mentors. The new players really appreciate the support they are getting.

This year we have seven teams playing interclub in every grade except for the open grade. Last year Andrew Smith's Intermediate team won their grade.

In July this year Lynda Rigler organised Karori's teams for the Wellington Regional Championships which our club won. It's great to have the cup for a second year! We have run three successful tournaments so far this year and it's pleasing to see that our members have been participating and doing well not only in our tournaments but also at other clubs.

This Club is very fortunate to have many people who are willing to give some of their time to help with making the running of the club easier.

Brigitte Kirby, Debbie Gapes, Elaine Pearse, Hilary Patton and Paul Herrick who come in every week and deal the cards, Jenny Coulter who looks after the library, Jenny Mills who brings in flowers for the ladies bathroom every week and Elaine who also waters our plants.

The grade captains who ensure that everything is organised for playing sessions: Monday - Jill Dodson and Jenny Coulter, Tuesday - Arvind Zodgekar and Carl Burgess and Thursday - Klaus Cordes and Helen Collicoat. Friday - Bobbie Monigatti who organises, directs, bakes a cake and ensures that Friday bridge runs smoothly.

Peter Delahunty is our bar manager and ensures the bar is stocked and Debbie Gapes keeps our web pages up to date and prints our trophy certificates.

To all the people who help at tournaments and other events thank you very much.

Thank you Martyn for all the work you do to ensure our club runs smoothly. You are a very welcoming and friendly face for visitors and members who appreciate the fact you go the extra mile for them. And here I'd like to put in a plug for people to fill in the playing sheets as that really does make Martyn's life easier.

I'd like to thank Hilary Patton who is leaving the committee this year, for all she has done over the last two years .

Finally I'd to thank everyone for the support they have given me over the last three years. (I really am leaving the committee this year!) and to wish the new committee well.

Annette Prebble